

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action mailed May 4, 2001 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 9 and 10 were amended in the response filed September 4, 2001. Claim 20 was added in the response filed September 4, 2001. Claims 21-26 have been added herein. Support for claims 21-26 can be found in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1-3, and 5-26 are pending. Entry of the forgoing amendments and favorable reconsideration are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-3 and 5-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-14 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Scholze et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,238,590) (hereinafter "Scholze '590"). Claims 1-2, 6, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Scholze et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,374,933) (hereinafter "Scholze '933"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

New claims 21 and 25 recite a process for producing a semipermeable membrane by preparing a low-viscosity to resinous liquid produced by hydrolytic polycondensation of a material selected from the group consisting of compounds I, II and III, as set forth in claim 1, and curing the membrane. None of the prior art references of record disclose or suggest the claimed processes set forth in these claims. Since claims 22-24 and 26 depend from these claims, for at least this reason these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record.

For this reason, and the reasons set forth in the September 4, 2001 response, the rejections of record are respectfully traversed. For brevity, the arguments set forth in the September 4, 2001 response are not being reiterated herein

3. *Conclusion*

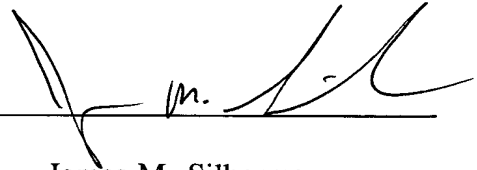
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions, Examiner Fortuna is courteously invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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